

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 FBO-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 USSS-00 OPR-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SCA-01 /074 W

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FM AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1712

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: BOMB THREAT

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 P.M. ON MARCH 6, A PERSON SPEAKING POOR GERMAN PHONED THE ROTTERDAM ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD INFORMING THE NEWSPAPER THAT ONE BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN ROTTERDAM AND ONE AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER. THE BOMBS WERE TO GO OFF AT 11:00 P.M. THE NEWSPAPER, FOR A REASON WHICH AT PRESENT IS NOT CLEAR, PHONED THE EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE RATHER THAN THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S DUTY OFFICER. THE SECURITY OFFICER IN TURN CONTACTED THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S DUTY OFFICER.

2. THE POLICE RESPONDED WITHIN MINUTES AT THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AND FOUND A DETERGENT CONTAINER WITH SOMETHING TICKING INSIDE, IN THE BACK GARDEN SOME 10 YARDS FROM THE HOUSE. EXCELLENT AND QUICK MEASURES WERE THEN TAKEN. A LARGE NUMBER OF STRAW BALES WERE PILED UP AROUND THE SUSPECTED BOMB. AN ARMY BOMB SQUAD FROM CULEMBORG, NEAR UTRECHT, WHICH IS OVER AN HOUR AWAY, WAS CALLED. THE DUTY OFFICER MOVED THE OFFICIAL CAR AND CHRISTIANO'S POV AWAY FROM THE HOUSE; AND NEIGHBORS, WHICH INCLUDED A GIRL'S SCHOOL, WERE QUICKLY INFORMED TO EVACUATE. MR. J. PH. VAN HOEK,
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THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, WHO IS THE CHIEF OF THE INTELLIGENCE

SERVICE, WAS ON THE SCENE TO DIRECT OPERATIONS. MR OLDENHAMPSON, THE CHIEF OF SPECIAL SERVICES CONCERNED WITH BOMB THREATS, WAS ALSO ON HAND. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A LARGE FIRE TRUCK WITH SOME 10 FIREMEN. THE ARMY BOMB SQUAD FROM CULEMBORG DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL ABOUT 11:00 AND PROCEEDED TO X-RAY THE SUSPECTED BOMB WHICH CLEARLY SHOWED A TICKING DEVICE INSIDE. AFTER A COVER WAS PUT ON THE SUSPECTED BOMB, A DEVICE WAS USED TO BLOW IT APART. ALL THAT WAS FOUND WERE TWO TICKING ALARM CLOCKS IMMERSED IN GARBAGE.

3. BEFORE THE SUSPECTED BOMB WAS BLOWN APART, THE POLICE HAD ALREADY APPREHENDED TWO YOUNG MEN WHO ADMITTED BEING INVOLVED. THEY WERE CAUGHT BY A METHOD WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO KEEP IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. ACCORDING THE POLICE, WHEN THE CALL WAS MADE TO THE ALGEMEEN DABGLAD, THE DISCUSSION WAS RECORDED ON TAPE AND THE POLICE WERE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED. THE ORIGIN WAS TRACED AND A SQUAD CAR WAS SENT TO PICK UP TWO PEOPLE WHO AFTERWARDS ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD CARRIED THE FAKE BOMB THROUGH A DOOR WHICH LEADS TO THE GARDEN BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE GARAGE. THE POLICE SAID THAT THE YOUNG KIDS DID IT ONLY FOR THE "KICKS" AND THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL OR OTHER MOTIVE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, WE WILL BE GETTING A MORE THOROUGH REPORT ON THIS.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING, THE POLICE WERE A LITTLE SLOW IN COMING SINCE THEY WERE NOTIFIED AT 9:15 P.M. BUT DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL 10:05 P.M. APPARENTLY THEY GAVE THEIR FIRST ATTENTION TO THE RESIDENCE BECAUSE OF THE DANGER TO SO MANY PEOPLE NOT ONLY IN THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE BUT ALSO IN THE GIRLS' SCHOOL NEXT DOOR. THE POLICE WERE EXTREMELY THOROUGH AND WENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE CONSULATE GENERAL FROM THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING DIRECT TO THE PENTHOUSE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR WHERE CONSUL JOHN COFFEY RESIDES. THE POLICE HAD COMPLETED THEIR SEARCH OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING BY 12:15 A.M. MARCH 7.

5. COMMENT: THIS FAR WE ARE UNABLE TO DETECT ANY POLITICAL OR OTHER MOTIVE FOR THE THREAT. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING ON THE LOCAL SCENE IN RECENT DAYS THAT WOULD HAVE AROUSED THE ANIMOSITY OF ANY PARTICULAR GROUP. THE POLICE TOLD ME THAT THE SUSPECTED BOMB WAS VERY MUCH OF AN AMATEUR JOB AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE WAS NO SEMBLANCE OF ANY PROFESSIONALISM. THEY WERE UNWILLING TO GIVE MORE DETAILS AT PRESENT ABOUT THE YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED. HOWEVER, THEY SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE MORE DETAILS LATER.
CHRISTIANO

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